

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present paper, Applicant will have elected, with traverse, the invention defined by claims 3-6, 10-12, 14-21, and 31-34.

In the Official Action, the Examiner required an election among Group I defined by claims 1 and 2; Group II defined by claims 3-6, 10-12, 14-21, and 31-34; Group III defined by claims 7 and 9; Group IV defined by claim 13; Group V defined by Claims 22-25; and Group VI defined by claims 26-30 and 35.

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement and submit that it is inappropriate. Applicant notes that each and every one of the claims in the present application relates to database management.

Additionally, the entire field of search for the identified groups is contained in class 707, as identified by the Examiner. Further, groups I and VI are contained in the same subclass of class 707 identified by the Examiner, i.e., subclass 102. Since the various Groups are so closely related, it is submitted that there is no serious burden on the Examiner in examining all of the claims together.

As set forth in M.P.E.P. § 803, an "appropriate explanation" must be set forth by the Examiner as to the existence of a "serious burden" if the restriction requirement were not required. Since the search for the claims would appear to include a significant amount of overlap, it is respectfully submitted that no serious burden would come to bear on the Examiner.

For all of these reasons, and consistent with Office policy as set forth in M.P.E.P. § 803, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the position taken in the above-mentioned Official Action, withdraw the restriction requirement in the

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present application and issue an action on the merits of all of claims 1-35. Accordingly, the Examiner's restriction requirement is believed to be improper and has been traversed for the reasons set forth above.

Applicant submits that, in view of the above, it is inappropriate to require Applicant to restrict his invention to one of the six groups of claims, and that it is not burdensome for the Examiner to examine claims 1-35 at least because of the similarity in the claimed subject matter.

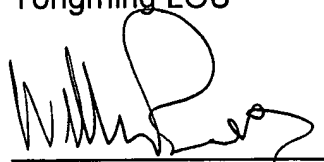
Nevertheless, in order to be fully responsive, Applicant has elected with traverse, the invention defined by Group II, comprising claims 3-6, 10-12, 14-21, and 31-34 in the event that the Examiner chooses not to reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement. Notwithstanding the traversal, Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications with respect to the non-elected claims, should the Examiner choose not to reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an election and have traversed the Examiner's restriction requirement.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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